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LETTER DATED 29 JULY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to notify you of continued violations of the ceasefire resolution and the Tehran agreement concerning the area of separation between Iraq and Iran that were committed by the Iranian side between 28 February and 17 July 1998, as shown in the list annexed hereto.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Iranian violations of the ceasefire and the 1991 Tehran agreement, 28 February-17 July 1998

1. 28 February 1998

The boats bearing the Basrah registration numbers 1749, 1750 and 1754, all three belonging to Mr. Imad Ghalib Hasan, foundered in Iraqi territorial waters in the Faw sector of the Shatt al-Arab as a result of a storm. The boats were seized on the opposite shore by the Iranian authorities.

2. 4 May 1998

At 1900 hours the Iranian side deployed three different-coloured fibreglass patrol boats (one red, one grey and one white) in the Shatt al-Arab between Abadan, at coordinates 410555, and the Mutawwa'ah area, at coordinates 2988660 (1:100,000 map of Saybah). A fourth, black, boat was also seen moving along the boats deployed in fixed positions. Each boat carried three persons, and some of them were in military uniform. At 0640 hours on 5 May all of the boats withdrew from the area.

3. 10 May 1998

At 0830 hours an Iranian engineering unit proceeded to make a dirt road along the Iranian shore at coordinates 6018 (1:100,000 map of Mina' al-Bakr), using one excavator and three dump trucks.

4. 10 May 1998

At 1130 hours a group of some 30 Iranian civilians, men and women, was seen with a number of vehicles coming from a point inside Iranian territory at coordinates 598176 (1:100,000 map of Mina' al-Bakr). They visited the pier bridge, and at 1300 hours they left the area heading towards the Iranian rear.

5. 20 May 1998

At 0900 hours an engineering unit consisting of five persons with a water pump and a welding machine was seen at the port of Muhammarah engaged in refloating one of the sunken pontoons at the anchorage at coordinates 2770 (1:100,000 map of Saybah). At the same time, an Iranian engineering unit at the same location was seen dredging and clearing the area opposite the Muhammarah anchorage. The equipment used included a tug to tow the pontoon, six Poclain backhoes and two excavators, and there were seven labourers.

6. 23 May 1998

At 1445 hours three different-coloured vehicles were seen, one Scammell forklift and two Scania trucks, carrying parts for a 16-metre-high metal tower that was erected opposite our units at coordinates 5051 near the Iranian Fakkah

post. At 1757 hours on the same day these vehicles returned to the Iranian rear.

7. 30 May 1998

The Iranians erected a number of towers 8 to 10 metres high in areas opposite our border posts for use as observation posts and in monitoring Iraqi territory, as follows:

(a) One tower opposite the Arafat post at the trading area;

(b) One tower opposite the Ta'an post and another to the right of the post;

(c) Three towers opposite the Darraji post.

8. 2 June 1998

An Iranian engineering unit consisting of one excavator and a number of dump trucks was seen carrying out modifications in the area opposite Faw at coordinates 370217 (1:100,000 map of Faw).

9. 5 June 1998

An Iranian patrol boat fired on an Iraqi fishing boat operating in the Shatt al-Arab in the Faw area. The boat was taken away, together with its crew of two fishermen, namely Muhannad Abd al-Razzaq Sa'id and Hasan Sa'id. The fishermen Adil Luaybi Zamil and Adi Yusuf Dawud were also abducted while they were at work in the same locality on a small boat with no motor. At 0400 hours on 15 June all four fishermen were released.

10. 15 June 1998

The Iranians erected three metal towers 16 to 18 metres in height, for purposes of observation, at coordinates 550504, 570455 and 5744104 (1:100,000 map of Shaykh Faris) opposite the Iraqi Fakkah area. Each tower is manned by six to eight persons.

11. 21 June 1998

The Iranian side erected a metal tower 16 to 18 metres in height to the left of the Urshaydah post at coordinates 605365. The number of persons in the tower is estimated at six to eight.

12. 25 June 1998

Between 1800 and 2000 hours the Iranian side burnt the reeds behind the earth embankment opposite the Badikhiyah area in the Shatt al-Arab at coordinates 518410.

13. 28 June 1998

At 0830 hours, as he was going from the Sayhah post at coordinates 9662 to the Arafat post at coordinates 9765, PFC Tha'ir Mahmud Jasim was ambushed by six armed Iranians at coordinates 9763. He was taken to the Iranian post at coordinates 9761 and was released two hours later.

14. 8 July 1998

At 1100 hours an engineering unit consisting of a pontoon carrying four or five persons with a hoist and a salvage pump was seen opposite the Shahiniyah area at coordinates 299678 (1:100,000 map of Saybah) retrieving submerged objects. A sunken vessel was brought up and taken under tow by a tug to the Karun River.

15. 17 July 1998

At 1700 hours the Iranians opened a border observation post at coordinates 291679 (1:100,000 map of Saybah).